

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERN 01245 241427Z
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
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R 241248Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BERN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4101
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR UNHCR SZ
SUBJ: UN ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT: REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL
GUIDANCE

REF: A) STATE 62223; B) GENEVA 2066 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: I SHALL ASK FOR AN APPOINTMENT WITH AMB ALBERT WEITNAUER, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE FEDERAL POLITICAL DEPT, TO CARRY OUT INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL A. IT SEEMS LIKELY HE WILL ASK ME ABOUT THE STATEMENT ON MOVING THE HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION AND, ON THE BASIS OF RECENT CONVERSATIONS WE HAVE HAD WITH SWISS OFFICIALS, MAY USE THE OCCASION TO RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE US ROLE IN THE DECISIONS ON MOVES TO DONAU PARK. I WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE ON BOTH QUESTIONS.
END SUMMARY.

2. SWISS PRESS AND PRIVATE REACTION TO THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH HAS, ON THE WHOLE, BEEN FAVORABLE. WHILE SOME MISGIVINGS HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED ABOUT THE EFFECT OF THE USG'S EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS ON US-USSR RELATIONS, MOST SWISS SUPPORT THE POLICY AND
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PAGE 02 BERN 01245 241427Z

THE POSITION OF THE SWISS GOVT IS THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ARE A QUESTION OF UNIVERSAL CONCERN AND NOT A PURELY INTERNAL MATTER IN WHICH FOREIGNERS SHOULD NOT INTERFERE OR SPEAK OUT.

3. THE CALL FOR MOVING THE HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION BACK TO NEW YORK HAS DRAWN A MORE MIXED REACTION. WHILE MOST OF THE PRESS HAS NOT EMPHASIZED THIS AS YET, WE EXPECT MORE ARTICLES IN

THE NEXT FEW DAYS. AS WOULD BE EXPECTED, JOURNALISTS COVERING THE UN HAVE PROTESTED THE IMPLICATION THAT THEY HAVE NOT BEEN GIVING HUMAN RIGHTS ADEQUATE COVERAGE. THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENEVA PRESS ASSN HAS STATED THAT TRANSFER OF THE COMMISSION TO NEW YORK WOULD NOT IMPROVE PRESS COVERAGE OF ITS ACTIVITIES. THE NEWSPAPER 24 HEURES PUT IT MORE STRONGLY: "DOES JIMMY CARTER NOT KNOW THAT LARGE NUMBERS OF CORRESPONDENTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD COVER THE UN IN GENEVA? DOES HE THINK THAT ONLY THOSE UN ACTIVITIES THAT TAKE PLACE ON US SOIL HAVE ANY INFLUENCE ON THE AFFAIRS OF THE REST OF THE WORLD?"

4. THE PAPER GOES ON TO POINT OUT THAT THE MOVE SHOULD NOT BE REGARDED AS A NEW VIENNA-GENEVA PROBLEM; THAT SUCH A MOVE IS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL, BUT IT IS DOUBTFUL HE WOULD AGREE TO MOVE A DIVISION BACK TO NEW YORK THAT MOVED TO GENEVA ONLY A FEW YEARS AGO.

5. OFFICIAL REACTION HAS BEEN GUARDED. MINISTER FRANCESCA POMETTA (DEP DIR, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AFFAIRS, EPD) TOLD AN EMBOFF THAT THE OFFICIAL SWISS POSITION, AS ON ALL SUCH MOVES, IS THAT IT IS UP TO THE SEC GEN TO MAKE THE RECOMMENDATION AND THE UNGA THE DECISION. HOWEVER, STRESSING THAT SHE WAS EXPRESSING A PERSONAL VIEW, SHE WENT ON TO SAY THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR HER TO SEPARATE THIS INITIATIVE ENTIRELY FROM WHAT SHE FELT WAS THE PRO-AUSTRIAN POSITION THE US ADOPTED IN RELATION TO THE DECISIONS ON THE MOVES TO DONAU PARK. SHE SAID THAT THE US DID NOT SUPPORT SWISS EFFORTS TO PREVENT THE TRANSFER OF AT LEAST ONE AGENCY THAT HAD BEEN IN GENEVA SINCE LEAGUE OF NATIONS DAYS, THAT SWITZERLAND HAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BERN 01245 241427Z

BEEN ISOLATED DURING THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS, IN FACT IF NOT IN APPEARANCE, THAT THE SECTION WAS, AFTER ALL, AN AUSTRIAN, AND THE US HAD ALLOWED HIM AND THE AUSTRIANS TO HAVE THEIR WAY. ONE OF HER SUBORDINATES ALLEGED TO US EARLIER THAT WHILE THE US SEEMED TO GET WHAT IT WANTED, THE SWISS SUPPORT, ON MOVES FROM NEW YORK, WE HAD NOT RECIPROCATED.

6. AS FAR AS THOSE TWO SWISS OFFICIALS ARE CONCERNED THERE IS A RESIDUE OF UNHAPPINESS ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF THE DONAU PARK DECISIONS AND WHAT THESE SWISS BELIEVE TO HAVE BEEN US ROLE IN THEM. THIS COULD COLOR THE SWISS RESPONSE TO THE EFFORTS OF THE US TO MOVE THE HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION BACK TO NEW YORK. IN ANY EVENT THE HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION MOVE, AND PERHAPS DONAU PARK, ARE LIKELY TO BE RAISED IN MY MEETING WITH WEITNAUER.

7. I WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE RECEIVING A COPY OF THE GUIDANCE REQUESTED REFTEL B FOR MY USE HERE. IN ADDITION TO THE QUESTIONS GENEVA RAISED, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO KNOW WHETHER

OUR ORIGINAL OPPOSITION TO THE MOVE OF THE DIVISION FROM NEW YORK TO GENEVA IS A MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD. WHEN IS IT LIKELY WE WILL CONSULT THE SWISS AND OTHERS ON OUR PROPOSAL? WHAT CAN I TELL THE SWISS ABOUT OUR PLANS TO DO SO?

8. WITH REGARD TO THE DECISIONS ON DONAU PARK, I WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ADDITIONAL INFO THE DEPT COULD PROVIDE TO COUNTER THE PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS MIN POMETTA VOICED AS TO THE DECISION-MAKING ON THE PLANNED MOVES TO DONAU PARK. DAVIS

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